To: Harold W., Jim S. February 7, 1971
Subject: Jack Anderson columns on anti-Castro assassination attempts; R. Gonzales

Enclosed is a letter I wrote to Anderson, and Whitten's reply. (He sent the complete columns of 1/18 and 1/19/71, if you need them.)

I would like your comments and opinions on whether and how I should proceed. I need to hear from you both soon, but please think this over for a day or so and don't just give me your initial reaction. Anderson is hardly my favorite columnist but he would seem to be in a good position to do some solid investigation. We have been sitting on this item for some time now and I don't see any other way of making good use of it.

Several things suggest to me that the Anderson columns were more or less given to him, and not the result of digging by them. He asks me for names and other information on the various assassination attempts; this information can be found rather easily from the NY Times and such sources. Also, they wrote that "among those privy to the CIA conspiracy, there is still a nagging suspicion ... that Castro became aware of the U.S. plot upon his life and somehow recruited Oswald to retaliate against President Kennedy." This suggests that Anderson's sources had some desire to push this interpretation; Anderson seems to believe that the "fanatic" Oswald was the assassin.

I would reply to Whitten along the following lines:

(1) Information about Reinol Gonzales' attempt on Castro: send the USN&WR article. Also, refer to the press reports quoted in items 2,4,5,7,9, and 12 of my notes. (Harold: these notes, entitled "Matters possibly connecting Odio with Anti-Castro groups plotting to kill Castro", were sent to you with my letter of June 13, 1970.)

Note: I do not want to send Anderson the third page of these notes, which relates to the possible Odio-Quiroga link. I hinted at this in the letter to Anderson, but I don't want to tell him any more.

(2) Other assassination attempts: items 3,6, and 8 of my notes; also refer to information in the NY Times and the Hoover Institute files.

(3) Gonzales-Odio link - send copy of CE 3148, pp. 838-9 (Item 1 in my notes)

(4) The Odio visit story - send the relevant pages from the WR, also the discussion in Sylvia's book and (perhaps) that in Flammonde's. Indicate that I have a large number of relevant WC pages. Summarize the situation as follows:

* Odio's story has stood up quite well, despite attempts to attack her credibility. Thus, some visit like that she reported probably took place. No apparent interest of Odio's was served by making up the part about Oswald.
* Hall and Howard were engaged in anti-Castro activities in Dallas, noted at the time by the FBI. They may well have visited Odio; they have both admitted and denied it. They may have been accompanied by Seymour or "Quarito." They were certainly traveling in CIA circles.

(5) Leads-

* LA Free Press has recent reports on the activity on one Reinol Gonzales, age 18. (Bombings, etc.) Quite possibly the son. Articles in LA anti-Castro papers cited; should be checked for background on R.G. "Sr."
* Hoover Institute files (I have not checked the ones that my relate to RG)
* Hall and Howard - talkative, but not reliable. (Harold - should I not mention that you have been successful in getting information from them in the past?)
* Odio's Dallas and other anti-Castro associates. Many named in FBI reports.

I would emphasize that the RG link has apparently not been noted publicly and all efforts should be made to exhaust the possible leads before anything more is said.

Jim: I assume you do not want your name used in any of this - i.e. you do not want me to give you credit for the original discovery.

Let me know what you think.

Paul

PLH